GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1918
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2005
OLD AGE PENSION TO BPL PERSONS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate amount of pension being provided at present and to be provided in the near future to the persons BPL who cross the age of 60 years;

(b) the share of State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the estimated amount to be provided by both State and Union Government for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the Centrally Sponsored National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) consisting of the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme until the Programme was transferred to the State Plan along with the Annapurna Scheme with effect from the financial year 2002-03. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, the Central assistance was being made available to the States/UTs for payment of an amount of Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary to the destitutes aged 65 years and above.

Ministry of Rural Development now has no scheme for providing old age pension; State Governments/UT Administrations provide old age pension. However, the Ministry of Finance releases funds as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in accordance with the allocations made by the Planning Commission to States/UTs to augment their efforts in this regard. The ACA is a combined allocation for the implementation of NSAP and Annapurna Scheme. The States have requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the Schemes. The Ministry of Rural Development has no Budget Provision for the transferred Schemes.